

**SB0742: Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Developmental Disabilities  
Administration - Home- and Community-Based Services Eligibility Determinations  
(Maryland Protecting People With Disabilities Act)  
February 27, 2026 Position: Favorable**

Glinda Romero  
Kensington, MD 20895  
(c. 240-498-6594)

**We support SB0742 - the Maryland Protecting People with Disabilities Act.** We are a part of the Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition (MDAC.)

My daughter, whom I have guardianship of, Christian Jarnagin, had qualified for a Medicaid waiver and program supports since 2003. She has Down Syndrome... along with severe hearing loss, cognitive and language difficulties and vision problems. She still has those disabilities today. They are permanent and well-documented. As of July 1, 2025 Christian's Medicaid waiver and DDA Community Pathways funding were denied after more than two decades. The state of Maryland said we did not complete the application process on time.

That is not the truth. Documentation was supplied numerous times with USPS Priority receipt of delivery each time the documentation was mailed to Maryland DHS. We paid for priority mail as a family. Appeals were filed on time. We received no acknowledgment from Maryland DHS Appeals Unit and no Fair Hearing has been set to challenge these arbitrary decisions. That makes three appeals on behalf of Christian alone, languishing at Maryland DHS. We are not the only ones to whom this has happened.

There are no preservation of services until the appeals are heard in a Fair Hearing. Christian's service program and Medicaid have been stopped after 22 years. Yet, her permanent disabilities are still affecting her life, and her medical care needs continue. No Fair Hearing has been set despite our attempts to have one scheduled.

Given the repeated, timely submissions of all required documents, as well as unanswered prior appeals, we have to question: where has due process gone? Where is the accountability? We are talking about medical and community service packages that are crucial to safe, successful life in communities in which Marylanders with disabilities have a right to live per the Olmstead Act.

This is demoralizing to people with disabilities like Christian who are supported to be part of their communities, and then refused the right to have access to those communities because services are removed without warning or fair process.

Supportive programs come to a full stop. Community access no longer accessible for integration where they live. Medical care comes to a stop without Medicaid access. Now she will need to use costly emergency room services for everything, as she is uninsured. One emergency room visit, one hospital stay is so much more costly than the routine care she is willing to participate in.

Maryland DHS Case Managers for Medicaid Waiver recipients are inaccessible. What happens for disabled individuals who are their own guardians but still may have questions or need support?

Why this redetermination process so contentious that a class action lawsuit was filed? Why are individuals with disabilities being treated in such a disrespectful way? Changes need to happen for the current service delivery.

Don't balance budgets on the backs of individuals with disabilities who – by no fault of their own – need support, not more administrative, unfair barriers.

Glinda K Romero

Guardian for Christian B Jarnagin

240-498-6594(c